SPIRITUAL ISRAEL

"Israel," which means prince with God, was a name of heavenly origin, and applied only to Jacob, signifying his spiritual victory. Genesis 32:28. Later the name "Israel" was extended to include Jacob's descendants. God told Pharaoh, ***"Israel is my son, even my firstborn...Let my son go."*** Exodus 4:22,23. In Galatians, Paul writes that Abraham's seed does not refer to ***"many,"*** but to ***"one,... which is Christ."*** Galatians 3:16. Repeatedly, the New Testament applies statements that once applied to the nation of Israel to Jesus Christ; He is now "the seed." Jesus is the very essence of Israel!

Paul then tells his Gentile (non-Jewish) converts, ***"And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise."*** Galatians 3:29. Thus in the New Testament, the name Israel not only applies to Jesus Christ, but also to those who are born in Christ—His Church! In other words, all true Christians are now God's spiritual Israel. This is truly a wonderful privilege!

From its inception, the church has understood itself to be "Spiritual Israel." For example, the Lord told the ancient Israelites, ***"And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation."*** Exodus 19:6. In the New Testament, Peter applies these exact words to the church: ***"But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people."*** 1 Peter 2:9. James, when writing to the church, addresses it to ***"the twelve tribes which are scattered abroad."*** James 1:1. Paul writes ***"There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus. And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise."*** Galatians 3:28,29. ***"For he is not a Jew, which is one outwardly; neither is that circumcision, which is outward in the flesh: But he is a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit, and not in the letter."*** Romans 2:28,29.

In Hebrews 8 notice what it says regarding the New Covenant: ***"Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah."*** Hebrews 8:8-13. It is because God has appointed Christians as His "Spiritual Israel" that they have a part in the glorious new covenant promises.

Many things in the Old Testament have a symbolic or spiritual counterpart in the New Testament. Thus there are events, places and people in the Old Testament which are local, typical (a symbol that points to the real or original) and geographical, while these same events, places and people when mentioned in the New Testament are worldwide, antitypical (the real or original to which the type points) and symbolic.

Old Testament	Is Symbolic of	New Testament
Literal Israel		Spiritual Israel
Literal Tabernacle/Sanctuary		Heavenly Sanctuary
Literal Babylon		Spiritual Babylon
Literal Egypt		Spiritual Egypt
Literal Euphrates River		Symbolic Euphrates River
Literal Jezebel		Spiritual Jezebel

Local, Typical, Literal ◄——————————► **Worldwide, Antitypical, Spiritual**

A.D. 34

A.D. 34 Marked the endpoint of the 490 year prophecy of Daniel 9. At this time the Jewish nation confirmed its rejection of Christ by stoning Stephen and beginning large scale persecution of Christ's followers.

Old Testament Sanctuary Service

Heavenly Sanctuary Service